

Message Text

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46

ACTION SY-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01 /017 W

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O R 301412Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1203

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 0343

FOR RSS FROM RSO

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: PROTECTIVE SECURITY EQUIPMENT -TANANARIVE

REFERENCE: ADDIS 1151

1. TANANARIVE'S 0182 BEING REPEATED TO YOU. TANANARIVE WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH ANY FURTHER BACKGROUND SITREPS PERTAINING TO CURRENT LOCAL POLITICAL CRISIS.

2. TANANARIVE'S EQUIPMENT REQUESTS IN ESSENCE REFLECT POST'S DESIRE FOR SY TO EXPEDITE DELIVERY OF SCHEDULED SPECIAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT UNDER AUSPICES OF DEPARTMENT'S TERRORIST PACKAGE. RSO SUPPORTS THIS EXPEDITED DELIVERY REQUEST IN VIEW OF FACT THAT:

A. TANANARIVE POLITICAL SCENE HAS DETERIORATED AND IS CURRENTLY UNSTABLE AND POTENTIALLY VOLATILE.

B. AMERICAN EMBASSY AND OTHER INSTALLATIONS ARE VIEWED UNFAVORABLY BY LOCAL POPULACE.

C. HOST GOVERNMENT PROTECTION HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM EMBASSY AND AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

D. POST CURRENTLY WEAK ON DEFENSIVE SUPPLIES AND, BEYOND PHYSICAL SECURITY OF EMBASSY ITSELF HAS ONLY FIVE S&W MODEL 60 .38 CALIBRE SPECIAL REVOLVERS AND 100 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION TO DEAL WITH ANY POTENTIAL MOB OR CROWD SITUATION. THIS LIMITS
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EMBASSY'S OPTIONS IN PROTECTING CHANCERY AND MIGHT FORCE THEM INTO MAKING AN OVERLY STRONG RESPONSE (I.E. USE OF REVOLVERS) IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

E. POST PARTICULARLY NEEDS TEAR GAS AND MACE SUPPLIES TO PROVIDE THEM WITH A NON-LETHAL DEFENSE CAPABILITY. WHILE PRESENT LIKELIHOOD IS THAT EMBASSY WILL NOT BE SUBJECT OF MOB ATTACK OR DEMONSTRATION, SITUATION IS SUFFICIENTLY VOLATILE THAT IT COULD CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

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